

THE SECOND ALARM

BRINGING VALUABLE RESOURCES & NEWS
ONE ALARM AT A TIME

OCTOBER 2016

THE SECOND ALARM



VALDOSTA FIRE
DEPARTMENT



Editor:
Sgt. S A Miller

A Department Without Limits

BIRTHDAYS:

LT RONALD ROE	10/01
SGT TYSHON REED	10/02
LT RONALD SHOEMAKE	10/14
FF AARON LYONS	10/20
FF JOSHUA MCBRIDE	10/22
FF AUSTIN WILLIAMS	10/30

CHIEF'S TOPIC OF THE MONTH

Our profession exists because 90% of the time someone is requesting our service to be rendered in their time of need. That's the nature of our business; people call us when they need help. When we are participating in the "Give Burns the Boot" or "MDA" campaigns a majority of the donors are more excited about dropping money in the boots than learning what the contributions are for or who is receiving them. The reason is because the course of action is reversed. Now the community service is rendered in our time of need to help support a particular campaign. They are excited to have an opportunity to support the fire department. The reason why I felt compelled to talk about this is that I don't think we realize that we are afforded the power to help

others through our profession. I can't speak for everyone, but after 20 years, I can say "I didn't chose to be a firefighter, I was chosen to be a firefighter."

I read a quote I wanted to share, "Make what change you are able to make now, and let the 'giving spirit' spread like a virus, infinitely touching the lives of people you may never meet, across boundaries you may never cross, in ways you may never imagine. That is the power of giving and your ticket to changing the world." –Unknown

Just because a campaign does not directly affect you personally, it is affecting, impacting and changing someone's life. Remember, our profession is more than



Freddie D. Broome, Fire Chief
saving lives, it's about creating a life experience.
Thank you for your support and continuous efforts making the Valdosta Fire Department, "A Department without Limits."

POINTS OF INTEREST

- Submissions to the newsletter should occur before the 20th of each month
- Feel free to submit photos with your submissions
- Have a strong opinion about a topic of concern to our fire department? Feel free to submit a piece for review and possible publication in the newsletter

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY (TWIN EDITION)



A hearty welcome to the Valdosta Fire Department Family to Gabriel and Gavin James Haynes. Born on July 2, 2016, to Lt. Marcus and Mrs. Raneé Haynes, Gabriel and Gavin join their brother Tyler.

Congratulations to the Haynes' family from your Valdosta Fire Department family.

ATTA BOY—DONE DID GOOD



Congrats to Lt. Derek Willis (pictured above) for competing in the Lip Sync Battle and beating Chief Brian Childress. Lt. Willis did a great job impersonating Fergie. However, don't quit your day job, Lt. Willis. – Chief Broome

Congratulations to Battalion Chief Ronald Skrine for being selected to participate in the Executive Fire Officer program at the National Fire Academy in Emmittsburg, Maryland. Chief Skrine joins Assistant Chief Brian Boutwell in this four-year journey of becoming an EFO graduate.

Richard McCranie (through Lieutenant Adam Bemby, Office of Professional Standards, Valdosta Police Department) sends his regards to our personnel on Engine 2 for all that you did for him after arriving at his accident. Engine 2's response was quick and "these guys went above and beyond to help me." He also sends his thanks "for the kindness of Officer Gann with VPD for her sincerity and concern. They all took extra time to make sure everyone was ok before anything. They deserve a shout out!!"

FIELD REPORT—CAPT THIBODEAU

24 Members of the GSAR Task Force 2 team went to Perry, Georgia, at the Guardian Center to train in a simulated radiological event where a simulated city, Houston, Texas, was hit by a nuclear detonation causing severe damage to the city and outlying areas. GSAR TF2's assignment was to clear the road with the Army and Marines, and go into the city to rescue any victims that they may encounter. The total count of victims rescued was approximately 25 or more from 2000hrs to 0530hrs. The team encountered problems with difficult rescues based on a shortness of supplies needed for shoring vehicles, and a limited number of backboards to rescue victims trapped in

Mrs. Sally Querin of the Citizen's Fire Academy sends her regards to Lieutenants Shoemake and Phillips, and to Firefighters Chastain, Heeter and Wainwright, for welcoming her during her ride-along on September 23rd. She stated that "it was an honor and a privilege to have the opportunity to learn more about what you all do to stay ready and prepared to protect and serve our community... I left your station knowing I could count on any of you in any situation and especially if my life depended on it... You all are a blessing... Be Safe!"



Shila Heeter, wife of FF David Heeter, was selected Teacher of the Year for the City of Valdosta from a pool of 10 competing Teachers of the Year. She has taught 4th grade for WG Nunn Elementary for the past 10 years and will be competing for the Georgia Teacher of the Year early next year. Congratulations and good luck for the state title.

vehicles. The first drill consisted of 2 over-turned buses and other vehicles. This rescue mission went from 2000-0330hrs where all victims were recovered safely. The second mission was in a hazardous environment requiring the use of gas masks and took us to a log truck which had lost its load, trapping 5 people in 4 different cars that were stacked on one another and under the log trailer with 1 car over-turned in a ditch submerged in wet clay. Again, all victims were rescued by shoring, use of airbags, and cutting through logs and the cars to access each victim. This mission went from 0300-0530hrs.

EMPOWERING BUGLES—NOTES ON LEADERSHIP

The Power of Play at Work

By Michelle Burke

Imagine a workplace where people are allowed to play and even better encouraged to play. Believe it or not, that is what is happening in some organizations. Look at Google, all employees have access to and can play during their workday. They have all sorts of activities like bowling, meditation, wall climbing, volleyball and more. Facebook, LinkedIn and Ideo also provide opportunities for play time at work, anything from ping-pong to arcade games and a few take it one step further by instilling a culture of play. These fun activities are not just for lunch, employees can get up and go play when they get tired of working on a project or answering emails.

“...play is the vital missing solution at work”

Most think of play at work as a distraction, — inappropriate or simply a waste of time. The paradigm of play is that it’s seen as taking time away from “real work.” Just think, what if what we thought work could benefit from play? What if, the opposite of play isn’t work, but rather boredom? We have made assumptions over the years that play doesn’t belong during work hours. As a communication and culture consultant, the typical conversation with clients is often about employee engagement and how to create a more positive and energized workforce. I believe play is the vital missing solution at work. Play in my definition is simply having fun, being joyful and energized. Wouldn’t it be great if all employees were having fun while at work?

In his book Play, author and psychiatrist Stuart Brown, MD, compares play to oxygen. He writes, “...it’s all around us, yet goes mostly unnoticed or unappreciated until it is missing.” Think about how play shows up in your life? Play is games, art, books, sports, movies, music, comedy, flirting, talking and even daydreaming. More trainers, and consultants are using games and out-of-the-box activities to bring play into the workplace even if it’s within a teambuild-

ing experience or company event. When learning is fun, employees are more inclined to remember what they learned and use it.

Dr. Brown, is also the founder of the National Institute for Play, and he states, “when employees have the opportunity to play, they actually increase their productivity, engagement and morale.” It begs the question, why aren’t all companies insisting on more playtime at work? Dr. Brown goes on to say, “Not only does having a playful atmosphere attract young talent, but experts say play at work can boost creativity and productivity in people of all ages. There is good evidence that if you allow employees to engage in something they want to do, (which) is playful, there are better outcomes in terms of productivity and motivation.”

The good news is that there are a lot of benefits for bringing play into work.

Other research shows that play can decrease absenteeism, stress, and health care costs. When employees take time out to play, it lessens the stress of work, which leads to less sickness, a more positive attitude and more energized work environment.

Allowing play in the workplace is good for business and employees. It’s a win-win. The opportunity to play on the job shows employees

“Allowing play in the workplace is good for business and employees. It’s a win-win.”

that they are valued, and helps them lead a more balanced life. In turn, employees are more engaged, collaborative, focused when they are working, more creative and ultimately perform better. By encouraging play at work, it increases job satisfaction and general employee happiness, and happier workers have been shown to be more productive and increasing profits. What will you do today to play a little more while at work? I dare you.

Michelle Burke is a Communication and Workplace Strategist, published Author, Consultant, and Speaker.

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WELCOME TO THE FAMILY—NEW HIRE EDITION

Please welcome the new hires from Recruit Class 2 who began their careers with the Valdosta Fire Department on August 22nd, 2016. The following are headshots of the new hires with their names, hometowns, and their answer to the question, “Why work at the Valdosta Fire Department?”

Three of the recruits (Wainwright, Thebedo, and Clark) are already on shift as they have the required certifications to go ahead and begin working.



Demario Fields
Hampton Ga.
I love to help others while challenging myself daily .



Brandon Tebedo
Valdosta, Ga.
I grew up around it and I wanted to do it.

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NEXT PAGE-**

NEW HIRES—CONTINUED



Anthony Dywane Williams

Dublin Ga.
To be able to give back to my community by doing positive things that make a difference.



Benjamin Case Wainwright

McDonough, GA
I joined the Valdosta Fire Department because I grew up with family in this area and always wanted to live here. Also, my father is in the fire service so it has been a big part of my life.



Jarret Dean

Alapaha Ga.
It's always been a dream of mine. It's an honorable job that I take with pride. Every day I put this uniform on, I feel like a part of something greater than life itself.



Hurbert Terrial Small

Fargo Ga.
I wanted to become a part of the Valdosta fire Department because I enjoy helping people any way I can.



Frederick W. Jones

Savannah Ga.
To continue to positively affect lives in/ around the community and to be a positive role model.



Alex Dukes

Thomasville Ga.
I became a firefighter to make a difference in people's life and to be able to better myself every day.



Louis A. M. Audain

Port-of Spain Trinidad and Tobago
After 24 years in the U.S. Army, having to travel to serve other countries, I wanted to serve close to home and my family. The Valdosta Fire Department offered me the opportunity to serve my local community along with my family.



Justin Lamar Howard

Clarkston Ga.
To better educate myself in fire prevention and environmental disasters. This will help the community to feel more confident in the Valdosta Fire department. This department excites me and I can't wait to get on line and protect the city of Valdosta.



Luis Antonio Rodriguez Jr.

Valdosta Ga.
I knew this was going to be an amazing career opportunity where I could be active in supporting my community.



Jamie Sapp

Morven Ga.
The reason I work with the Valdosta Fire Department is to complete my career goal in the fire and medical profession and to work together with my Valdosta Fire Department family to help protect this great community.



Caleb Clark

Valdosta, Ga.
I was raised in this department. Tradition. Just a great department to work for.



Michael Anthony Penland Jr.

San Antonio Tx.
To continue serving my country honorably.